December 3, 2023

Early Publication Submission

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOPE

"Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the
lord of the house is coming."
- Mark 13:35

xcerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation Vigil (Dec 7) 7:00pm; Dec 8 - 8:30am & 7:00pm

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE December 12 - 7:00pm in Church



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - SEE PAGE 3



Keep Up-To-Date

through our eNewsletter. Sign-up or view recent eNewsletters at:

stmaryslg.org/enewsletter



Sunday 9:00am and Daily Masses are Live Streamed on our website

stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm - In Person **Sunday Masses:**

9:00am

Live-Stream & In Person 11:00am & 5:00pm - In Person

Mon - Sat: 8:30am Rosary - 8:00am Live-Stream & In Person

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm (Office Conference Room)

ADORATION Mondays - 9:00-10:00am

LIVE STREAMED
Thursdays - 7:00 pm
stmaryslg.org/live- stream-mass

SUNDAY DONATIONS

are best made online stmaryslg.org/donate

Envelopes can be mailed in or dropped off at the Parish Office

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

In prayer, the prophet Isaiah grieves over our sins that separates us from God. What sorrow or distress have you experienced over the past week?

Second Reading:

Paul offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the many gifts the believers have received because of their faith in Jesus. As we begin the season of Advent, for what are you thankful?

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Gospel:

Each Advent, the Gospel reading begins with Jesus instructing his disciples to watch carefully for the end times. How often do you think about the Second Coming of Jesus and judgment day?

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REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder that Advent doesn't always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed.

We can take as our theme for this season the words of the Prophet Isaiah in our First Reading. "You Lord, are our Father, our redeemer you are named forever... Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" The passage ends with this verse, which is especially meaningful to the Christian steward: "We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." In other words, our lives are not about us — rather, they are a gift to be used to glorify God and serve others.

In our Second Reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded of how extravagantly God has gifted each one of us. "You were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us embrace these Advent days to recommit to stewarding our spiritual gifts well. This will look different for each individual, of course. Perhaps a family can commit to setting up an Advent wreath and taking 10 minutes to reflect on the daily Gospel. Someone else may choose to be intentional in checking on a lonely neighbor each day to bring God's love to them consistently. Maybe some will be inspired to scale back their usual gift giving and donate that saved money to those in dire need right now.

Whatever we feel God calling us to do, there is no time to waste. Jesus makes this strikingly clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew through the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he "places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch." We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain attentive to the work He has given us to do, because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it. "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us awaken if we have grown weary or complacent, and recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!

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If it is an **EMERGENCY** and you need to reach a priest call 669-219-9465.

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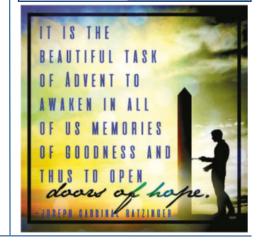
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun	12/3	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Mon	12/4	St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tue	12/5	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wed	12/6	St. Nicholas, Bishop Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thu	12/7	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri	12/8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (holy day of obligation) Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sat	12/9	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Sun

Mass Intentions				
Mon	12/4	8:30 am	Stephen Bowman †	
Tue	12/5	8:30 am	James and Catherine Vallosio †	
Wed	12/6	8:30 am	Peter Kraljev †	
Thu 12/7	12/7	8:30 am	Paul Yap †	
	12//	7:00 pm	Doug Johnston †	
Fri	12/8	8:30 am	Parishioners of St. Mary	
		7:00 pm	Alvin Macadangdang (birthday)	
Sat	12/9	8:30 am	Gloria Palmisano (wedding anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Helen Sheridan †	
Sun	12/10	9:00 am	Robert Hapgood Cowden †	
		11:00 am	Anna Miceli †	
		5:00 pm	Dinh Huynh †	

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation) Vigil: Thursday, Dec. 7 - 7:00pm; Friday, Dec. 8 - 8:30am and 7:00pm

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00pm followed by reception

Parish Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION (*Individual Confession*) Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 3:30-4:00pm.

4th Sunday of Advent - Vigil: Saturday, Dec. 23 - 5:00pm & Sunday, Dec. 24 - 9:00am & 11:00am

CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday, Dec. 24: 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday, Dec. 25: 9:00am and 11:00am. (No Mass at 8:30am and 5:00pm)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Monday, Jan. 1, 2023 8:30am. (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe you are really here in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you more than anything in the world, and I hunger to receive you.
But since I cannot receive Communion at this time, Feed my soul spiritually. I unite myself to you now, as I do when I actually receive You in Holy Communion. Amen.

LIVE THE LITURGY -INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

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POPE FRANCIS' UNIVERSAL PRAYER INTENTION: DECEMBER

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT 1

Dear Lord,
In this season of bustle,
help us to stay watchful and alert
to the spaces and places
You are calling us to bring
Your love and light. Amen.



FAITH IN ACTION

Stewardship of **PRAYER**

Please pray with us for our parishioners, family and friends.

For those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers: Bill Flora; Bruce Welch; George Bommarito; Janie Meacham; Vic LoBue, Jr.; Valerie Bruno; Julio Emberto; Carol Rakich

For those who have recently died:

Thomas Louis Murphy; George Reyes; Ernesto Fernandez; William & Hollis Buchanan; Paul Yap

Members of our parish family who are in the military, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins and all who have no one to pray for them.

MASS INTENTIONS: A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO REMEMBER SOMEONE

You can offer a Mass for a special intention or for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. Remember that there is no better gift than the gift of God's love and compassion as celebrated in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

www.stmaryslg.org/mass-intention-request

2023 Christmas Giving Tree

St. Mary Parish will be collecting \$25 gift cards on behalf of the following organizations

Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment: Provides educational programs, college scholarships, immigration legal services, housing and rental assistance for families and individuals in San Jose. \$25 gift cards from Target

Center for Farmworker Families: Supports the financial and nutritional well-being and independence of binational farmworkers and their families. \$25 gift cards from Target

Front Door Communities: Provides meals, clothing and other essential items to our unhoused neighbors in San Jose. \$25 gift cards from Safeway or Target

St. Julie Billiant Parish's Emergency Food Pantry: Provides food and basic necessities to over 1,400 clients monthly in San Jose.

\$25 gift cards from Safeway

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE COLLECTION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL DEC. 11.

Gift cards can be placed in the Giving Tree Donation drop boxes in the vestibule, the collection baskets or brought to the parish office. Make an online gift at bit.ly/3MLP002

Stewardship of TREASURE

Managing God's Gift To Us THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE! Our Goal for December is \$85,000.00

Your weekly offerings enable us to meet our monthly obligations and continue to support the many parish programs at St. Mary. Thank you for your faithful support.

To make an online gift: stmaryslg.org/online-giving

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at stmaryslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING

	July 1 to Nov. 19, 2023
Budget	\$ 329,167.00
Actual	\$ 273,200.70
Difference	\$ 55,966.30

2ND OFFERING - DECEMBER 2 & 3 SCHOOL SUPPORT

Thank you for remembering St. Mary School for the monthly Sunday Second Collection. These funds have a direct impact on our school's operating budget and helps support students and families in need of financial assistance.

To Make a Gift Online, please visit : giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/stmaryslg

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Contributions toward the purchase of flowers for the celebration of our Lord's birth are greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, Christmas Flower Offering envelopes are available at the doors of the church and can be placed in the offertory baskets at Mass or dropped off at the Parish Office.



Contributions can also be made online at our website - https://bit.ly/3MLP0o2.

The names of all those to be remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. **Please return the envelopes by December 11.** Thank you for your help in making our sanctuary even more beautiful this Christmas.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

MEETING CHRIST: EXPLORING THE LITURGY SERIES SACRAMENT AND SACRIFICE & THE COMMUNION RITE

Sacrament and Sacrifice

Catholics call the Eucharist by many names: we call it Eucharist (Greek for "thanksgiving"), "Breaking of the Bread," "Lord's Supper," "Holy Sacrifice," "sacrifice of praise" (cf. CCC, 1328-32). The many names reflect the many different dimensions of this great mystery. We will never plumb its depths or understand it fully.

What does it mean to call the Mass a sacrifice? Jesus died on the cross, once, for all; that sacrifice cannot be not repeated. But the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross cannot be contained, either. In the Mass, we are not simply remembering a past event; the mystery of Christ's dying and rising is made present to us. Thus the Eucharist we celebrate and the sacrifice of Christ on the cross are not different things, but one single sacrifice.

Without the cross, there would be no Mass. But in a sense, the reverse is also true. Pope Francis writes: "If we had not had the Last Supper, that is to say, if we had not had the ritual anticipation of his death, we would never have been able to grasp how the carrying out of his being condemned to death could have been in fact the act of perfect worship, pleasing to the Father, the only true act of worship, the only true liturgy." This ritual remembrance is what reveals the meaning of the cross to us.

In the Mass, the Church's offering is united with Christ's sacrifice. Thus, as we pray the Mass, we can offer our lives, our praise, our suffering, our prayer, our work, to be united with Christ's self-offering, and they gain new value (CCC, 1368). Thus the Mass is Christ's sacrifice and the Church's sacrifice, too.

Our liturgical remembering of Christ's sacrifice comes to life in our own lives when we imitate Christ's self-emptying and self-sacrificing love. We



ABOVE: The beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer in the Gellone Sacramentary, which dates to the 700s.

participate in the life of Christ by dying to self, so that we can live the sacrificial sacrament in which we share.

The Communion Rite

Following the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, we enter into the fourth part of the Mass, the Communion Rite. We have gathered in Christ's name, we have listened to Christ's word; Christ's saving action has been remembered and renewed in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Now we receive the sacrament we celebrate in the high point of our participation, the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

The communion rite begins with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. We pray the prayer of Jesus himself: a prayer that praises God, that seeks only daily bread—and that makes a bargain: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Before we come to the altar, we seek forgiveness and reconciliation. The Lord's Prayer flows naturally into the exchange of peace, in which we turn to those who are already one with us in the Body of Christ, and share the peace of Christ.

The "breaking of the bread" was one of the most ancient names for the Eucharist. It was in the breaking of bread that the disciples on the road to Emmaus finally recognized that their companion was Jesus himself. In the Mass, the host is broken and divided as we pray to Christ as the Lamb of God. This prayer is at once universal and individual—we acknowledge Christ as the one who takes away the sins "of the world," and we ask mercy for ourselves. The Savior of all comes to each.

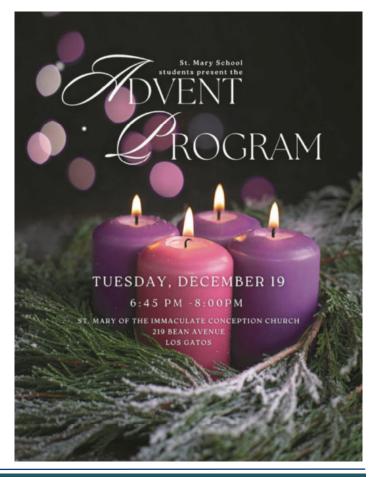
The Eucharistic species, the bread and wine, are not brought to us or passed through the pews. Instead, we move towards the altar in procession. Communion isn't something that happens to us. Communion is something we assent to; something we do. The host can be received in the hand or on the tongue. Receiving in the hand is the more ancient practice; receiving on the tongue became common, and then mandatory, in the Middle Ages. The measure of our devotion is not, of course, in whether we open our hands or our mouth to receive, but whether we open our hearts to Christ and to those with whom we share this life.

We speak of "receiving communion." But when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we become one with Christ and with all the others who are joined to him in this sacrament. "As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, was in this broken bread made one," we sing in the ancient hymn, "so from all lands thy Church be gathered into thy kingdom by thy Son." Communion means communion with this community, these people. The Body of Christ is not a thing. It is a living reality. The sacrament we receive is a sacrament of unity.

- Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy - St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Used with permission.

Next week: Invitation to Communion & A Prayer Before Communion







AROUND THE DIOCESE



SAVE THE DATE

2023 Pastoral Plan Unveiling and Vespers

> WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 6:00 PM

Our Lady of La Vang Parish
389 E Santa Clara St, San Jose
Reception follows.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC SCOUTS: BSA, GIRL SCOUTS & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS! Did you know that Catholic Scouting has Catholic Emblems, Activity Patches, and fun events that all follow the curriculum of the Catholic Church? It's not too late to get started on a Catholic Emblem due by 2/1/24 so that

you can receive your medal from Bishop Cantu at our Recognition Ceremony in March. Checkout all the programs at <u>dsj.org/evangelization/yya/catholic-</u> scouting/

PRAYER FOR PEACE MASS & ROSARY AT SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF PEACE: December 22 join together

and Pray for Peace at 5:15pm Mass at Our Lady of Peace Parish. A rosary and procession to Our Lady of Peace Shrine will be held after Mass.

Podcast for the Grieving SOLACE: Soul + Grief WEEKLY PODCAST

This WEEKLY podcast sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries serving the San José area offers grief support and grief journeying with spirituality. The journey through grief can often feel like a lonely one. Whether you're longing for spiritual direction, struggling with surrender, or simply seeking a comforting voice, this PODCAST offers a beacon of hone.

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